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with the conclusions of some contemporary writers—I have in mind Dietrich von Hildebrand—writers who are heedful of certain psychological analyses, and alive to the reproach (recently formulated with some asperity by the Russian thinker N. Berdiaev) of having been blind to the dignity of love in marriage and of having overstressed its sociological and biological function. T. G. Wayne has, in our opinion, truly taken cognizance of and weighed in the balance all the values at issue.

May we hazard one little reservation? It is this: the author speaks of the beauty of a marriage wherein is seen the splendour of chastity in the married state, speaks too of his conviction that the Incarnation can save the *entire* man, body and soul, hallowing his most concrete activities—then, surely, a supplementary paragraph is needed on the excellence of the celibate state, thereby answering those who may wonder that the Church esteems continence promised to God more highly than the married state.

One last word—to give our wholehearted approval to this useful little book, and to draw attention to its frontispiece which presents us with an engraving of rare beauty, vigorously realist, the work of Eric Gill.

J.-A. ROBILLIARD, O.P.

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SPIRITUAL SONGS FROM ENGLISH MSS. OF FOURTEENTH TO SIXTEENTH CENTURIES. Edited by Frances M. M. Comper, with a Preface by H. J. C. Grierson. (S.P.C.K.; 7/6.)

“There are some beautiful things that will never come again, and not individuals alone but classes of things.” So writes Grierson in his preface to this volume, for the mediæval religious lyric is, unfortunately, one of these things. To-day most religious poetry comes from versifiers who, however sincere they may be, seem incapable of giving the impress of sincerity and reality to their writing. Their thought and feeling seem sentimental, remote and vague; they break the great maxim “the higher the theme, the harder the thought.” Seeming to have little grasp of the humanity of Our Lord and Lady, they place them outside place and time altogether, in the abstract, or maybe in an “historical,” setting. Their fault is that of all our world, and of the language in which we feel and think. We have much to learn from the mediæval poet, who had no sense of *period*, but who possessed instead a sense of the concrete and eternal nature of God and His Mother. We cannot learn now to write as vividly as he, but we can, through the mediumship for instance of this intelligently edited volume, let him teach us to feel the real more sharply and see it more objectively.

G. B. S.

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FONTES VITAE S. CATHARINAE SENENSIS HISTORICI. I: Documenti cura et studio M. H. Laurent, O.P. Siena (R. Università di Siena, Cattedra Cateriniana).

The University of Siena, which several years ago established a professorship to promote Catherinean Studies, has now undertaken the publication of a complete and critical edition of all the historical sources concerning St. Catherine of Siena. The whole series, under the general heading *Fontes Vitae S. Catharinae Senensis Historici*, will comprise twenty-two volumes; the editing is entrusted to the well-known historians M. H. Laurent, O.P., of the Vatican Library, and Professor F. Valli. This is the first of the series, dealing with documentary evidence. It contains twenty-four documents of unequal value ranging from 1321 to 1384. Two Englishmen are here mentioned, the famous *condottiere* John Hawkwood to whom St. Catherine sent Bl. Raymond of Capua to urge him to go with his mercenary company to the Holy Land, and the Augustinian theologian Friar William Flete, who was summoned to Rome by Pope Urban VI to take part in the discussion for the reform of the Church. The edition is a scholarly work and the historical and bibliographical footnotes add further value to the whole. We recommend to all those who are interested in the history of the religious and political movements of the late fourteenth century to subscribe to this important publication, particularly since the issue is restricted to 300 copies.

D. A. C

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN published by Burns Oates & Washbourne, 3/6 each: THE TOUCHSTONE, by "Euphan" and "Klaxon"; JANE, WILL YOU BEHAVE, by Vera Barclay; WORZEL GUMMIDGE, by Barbara Euphan Todd; THE DRAGON GREEN, by J. Bissel Thomas.

The publishers, who have already laid the foundation of an excellent children's library, add to their list in a reasonably satisfactory way with the volumes here noted. Through the medium of *The Touchstone* the gifted authors of *South Country Secrets* provide vivid vignettes of English History from the earliest times, with Berkshire as the general setting. This is undoubtedly the way that history should be taught to young folk, and if they are given this book for Christmas they will welcome it as they never could a mere "school" book. Miss Barclay's new volume is, this time, concerned rather with play than with lessons, but she is no less successful in showing us Joc, Colette and Co. under vacation conditions, in spite of the unattractive title. It is the chronicle of a camping holiday undertaken by those delightful children whose acquaintance we made in the earlier books of the series, and the practical fruits of Miss Barclay's own experience of camp-life

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are set forth in her own vivid and attractive way. In *Worzel Gummidge* Miss Todd (who is also "Euphan") has given us a wholly delightful phantasy of a scarecrow endowed with life. But the story is probably so well known, since it was broadcast by the B.B.C., that it will need no further introduction or commendation. The last book of the four is likewise a phantasy, and some of the wildly fantastic adventures contained therein have also been broadcast. It is amusing in its galumphing way, as an untraditional fairy-tale with traditional characters, but it has none of the delicacy and verisimilitude of Miss Todd's creation.

H. J. C.

THE PRAYERS OF THE MISSAL. I: The Sunday Collects. By C. C. Martindale, S. J. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6.)

The only fault to be found with this book is that there is not enough of it. If we had also been given the translation, with similar explanatory meditations, of the Secrets and Postcommunions, or of yet more of the Sunday Masses, we should have been able to use our missals with tranquillity and devotion. However the figure "I" on the title gives us the surety of more to come, and perhaps the instalment system will attract a larger public. Father Martindale has already established his authority to teach the liturgy by his invaluable *The Mind of the Missal* and *The Words of the Missal*, and the present volume is a welcome devotional appendix to those books. Since in his translation the author has sought the truth and substance of this unique spiritual literature, the beauty of the prayers has looked after itself. Here is a comparison. "May the working of Thy mercy, we pray Thee, O Lord, direct our hearts; for, apart from Thee, we cannot please Thee" (18th Sunday after Pentecost). In a Latin-English missal we find: "In thy tender mercy, guide aright, we beseech, O Lord, our hearts; for, save thou be with us, we avail not so to live as to be pleasing to thee." And the Latin: "Dirigat corda nostra, quaesumus Domine, tuae miserationis operatio: quia tibi sine te placere non possumus." Though the Latin still remains unconquered, these translations with the meditations, which are short, brisk and well-stocked with practical spirituality, will most certainly help all who use them to pray with the Church in her own incomparable prayers.

C. P.

ENGLISH CARMELITES IN PENAL TIMES. By Sister Anne Hardman, S.N.D. (Burns Oates; 15/-.)

The authoress deals mainly with the history of three communities of the reform of St. Teresa, those of Lanherne, Cornwall, descended from the first foundation at Hopland, Antwerp, in 1619, of Darlington from Lierre in Flanders founded in 1648, and

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of Chichester from the foundation at Hogstraet in 1678. The convent at Hopland from which all the others sprang was founded in 1619 by Lady Mary Lovel, a Catholic widow living in Brussels, and the first prioress was a Lancashire woman, Anne Worsley (Mother Anne of the Ascension). The story of the latter's foundations and of her life of heroic sanctity is well told, and the whole book is a revelation of many lives of marvellous holiness, which should prove a powerful appeal for the contemplative life to-day so appreciated, undoubtedly as a revulsion of feeling against the modern world's gross materialism. W. G.

REASON AND RELIGION. By J. P. Arendzen, D.D. (Burns Oates; 5/-.)

By the second volume of Dr. Arendzen's sermons, originally from the *Catholic Times*, we are reminded of the unrivalled efficacy of a short sermon which says only one thing. It is difficult to stick to one point even for half an hour, and unless only one single point is made the sermon is practically worthless. These seventy sermons, each lasting only five minutes, bring home seventy practical points and will do more good than many an Hitlerian harangue. C. P.

Editions Salvator (Mulhouse, Haut-Rhin) have now completed the Abbé Gautier's translation of Parsch's work on the liturgical year. Volumes IV and V, both 18 francs each, of *LE GUIDE DANS L'ANNEE LITURGIQUE* run through the whole of the post-Pentecostal period. In spite of the absurd comparison in size, these five volumes are the next best thing to a Leaflet Missal.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ANGELICUM (Rome): *De alma Socia Christi Mediatoris*, ed. C. Friethoff, O.P.

BOIVIN (Paris): *L'individu chez Aristote*, D. Badareu (15 frs.); *La Dialectique de la durée*, Gaston Bachelard (15 frs.); *La Répresentation*, André Cresson (18 frs.).

BURNS OATES: *Teaching the Catechism*, F. H. Drinkwater, Part II: *Our Father and Commandments* (1/6), Part III: *Sacraments, etc.* (1/6); *The Roman Breviary*, English Version compiled by nuns of Stanbrook, Vol. I: *Winter* (15/-; morocco 21/-); *Autobiography*, G. K. Chesterton (10/6); *Historic English Convents of To-day*, Dom Basil Whelan, O.S.B. (7/6); *Blessed Edmund Campion*, S.J. (1/-); *They met Robin Hood*, Agnes Blundell (3/6); *Some Sisters of Mine: Helpers of the Holy Souls*, Marie René Bazin (5/-); *Michael in Bookland*, Frederick Cowles (3/6); *Sackcloth and Ashes*, Dom Hubert van Zeller, O.S.B. (3/6); *Purgatory*, Dr. Bernhard Bartmann (7/6); *The Cross and the Star of David: The Way of a Convert from the Torah to the Host*, Walter Heinrich Friedmann (7/6); *Radio Nick*, Lucia Ibertay (2/6); *Recollections of Rome* (abridged edn.), Cardinal Wiseman (5/-).